

Amendments to the Claims:

1-24. (canceled)

25. (previously presented): A method of embedding auxiliary information in data, wherein the auxiliary information is not lost with compression of the embedded data, the embedded data initially comprising a non-compressed form including the auxiliary information embedded therein, said method comprising:

- (a) retrieving the auxiliary information from the non-compressed form of the embedded data;
- (b) compressing the non-compressed form of the embedded data; and
- (c) embedding the retrieved auxiliary information in the compressed embedded data, whereby the compressed embedded data comprises the auxiliary information embedded therein.

26. (previously presented): A method of embedding auxiliary information in data, wherein the auxiliary information is not lost with decompression of the data from a compressed form to a non-compressed form, and wherein the compressed form includes the auxiliary information, said method comprising:

- (a) retrieving the auxiliary information from the compressed form of the data;
 - (b) decompressing the compressed form to yield the non-compressed form;
- and

(c) steganographically embedding the auxiliary information in the non-compressed form whereby the non-compressed form of the data comprises the auxiliary information embedded therein.

27-28. (canceled)

29. (previously presented): The method of claim 25 wherein the compression comprises encoding.

30. (canceled)

31. (canceled)

32. (previously presented): The method of claim 26 wherein the decompressing comprises decoding.

33. (previously presented): A method comprising:
retrieving auxiliary information from a data signal, wherein the auxiliary information is encoded in the data signal, and wherein the auxiliary information is retrieved from the data signal while the data signal comprises a non-compressed form;
compressing the data signal; and

embedding the retrieved auxiliary information in the compressed data signal, wherein the compressed data signal comprises the retrieved auxiliary information.

34. (previously presented): The method of claim 33, wherein the retrieved auxiliary information is steganographically retrieved from the non-compressed data signal.

35. (previously presented): The method of claim 34, wherein the retrieved auxiliary information is embedded in the compressed data signal in the form of a steganographic watermark.

36. (previously presented): The method of claim 33 wherein the data signal includes the auxiliary information embedded therein during said compressing step.

37. (previously presented): A method comprising:
retrieving auxiliary information from a data signal, wherein the auxiliary information is encoded in the data signal, and wherein the auxiliary information is retrieved from the data signal while the data signal comprises a compressed form;
decompressing the compressed data signal to yield a de-compressed data signal;
and

embedding the retrieved auxiliary information in the de-compressed data signal, wherein the decompressed data signal comprises digital data, whereby the de-compressed data signal comprises the auxiliary information embedded therein.

38. (currently amended): The method of claim 37, wherein the retrieved auxiliary information is steganographically embedded ~~encoded~~ in the de-compressed data signal.

39. (currently amended): The method of claim 37, wherein the retrieved auxiliary information is embedded ~~encoded~~ in the de-compressed data signal in the form of a steganographic watermark.

40. (currently amended): A method comprising:
retrieving auxiliary information from an original data signal, wherein the auxiliary information is encoded in the original data signal;

performing a transformation on the original data signal to create a transformed data signal; and

embedding the retrieved auxiliary information in the transformed data signal, wherein the transformed data signal comprises the retrieved auxiliary information.

41. (currently amended): The method of claim 40 wherein the auxiliary information is steganographically encoded in ~~retrieved from~~ the original data signal.

42. (currently amended): The method of claim 41 wherein the auxiliary information is steganographically embedded ~~encoded~~ in the transformed data signal.

43. (currently amended): The method of claim 40 wherein the auxiliary information is steganographically embedded ~~encoded~~ in the transformed data signal.

44. (previously presented): The method of claim 40 wherein the transformation causes the auxiliary information not to be detectable from the transformed data signal.

45. (previously presented): The method of claim 44 wherein the auxiliary information is steganographically retrieved from the original data signal.

46. (currently amended): The method of claim 45 wherein the auxiliary information is steganographically embedded ~~encoded~~ in the transformed data signal.

47. (currently amended): The method of claim 44 wherein the auxiliary information is steganographically embedded ~~encoded~~ in the transformed data signal.

48. (previously presented): The method of claim 40 wherein the embedding of the retrieved auxiliary information in the transformed data signal uses a robust embedding method for the transformed data signal that enables detection of the auxiliary information by a detector.

49. (currently amended): The method of claim 48 wherein the auxiliary information is steganographically embedded ~~eneeded~~ in the transformed data signal.

50. (previously presented): The method of claim 49 wherein the auxiliary information is steganographically retrieved from the original data signal.

51. (previously presented): A method of embedding auxiliary information in data in which the auxiliary information is not lost with decompression of the data from a compressed form to a non-compressed form, wherein the compressed form includes the auxiliary information, said method comprising:

- (a) retrieving the auxiliary information from the compressed form;
- (b) decompressing the compressed form to yield the non-compressed form;

and

(c) ~~(b)~~ embedding the auxiliary information in the non-compressed form, wherein the non-compressed form of the data comprises the auxiliary information embedded therein, and wherein the non-compressed form including the auxiliary information embedded therein comprises digital data.

52. (new): The method of claim 40 wherein the auxiliary information is encoded in the original data signal as header data.

53. (new): The method of claim 43 wherein the auxiliary information is encoded in the original data signal as header data.